GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5987
ANSWERED ON:31.08.2001
EXPORT OF WHEAT AND RICE .
AMBATI BRAHMANAIAH;PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether export of wheat and rice is in accordance with or more than the target fixed during the current year;

(b) whether the export of rice and wheat has decreased as compared to their production during the above said period;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the problem of storage of wheat and rice has cropped up due to this in balance;

(e) if so, the measures being taken by the Government to increase the storage capacity and exports; and

(f) whether any ports have been selected for export of wheat and rice?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI CHAUHAN)

(a),(b)&(c): During the current financial year, 50 lakh MTs and 30 lakh MTs of wheat and rice respectively, are being offered for export from the Central Pool. So far, 12.99 lakh MTs of wheat (upto 31.7.2001) and 1.21 lakh MTs of rice (upto 22.8.2001) (1.91 lakh MTs from the country as a whole upto May, 2001) have been exported from the Central Pool.

The decision to export foodgrains from Central Pool is taken on the basis of the extent of surplus stocks over and above the buffer norms, availability of storage capacity for further procurement, carrying cost of foodgrains etc. and not merely on the basis of production of foodgrains in the country.

(d) & (e): Export of wheat & rice forms only a small part of our total production and also of the stocks held in the Central Pool.

However, FCI also undertakes creation of additional storage capacity by construction of godowns at strategic locations at micro-level under the Five Year Plans and by exploring additional resources for investment in augmentation of storage facilities under the National Storage Policy on Handling, Storage & Transportation of Foodgrains.During the Annual Plan for2001-2002, the targets of FCI and CWC are 1.29 lakh MTs and 2 lakh MTs respectively for construction of godowns.

To increase exports of wheat and rice, the export prices have been fixed keeping in view, inter-alia, the international prices. Alongwith PSUs/Agencies, private parties have been permitted to export these commodities.

(f): FCI has been permitted to offer foodgrains for export from its port godowns.The selection of ports for export wheat & rice are actually decided by the exporters.